An Exact COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE *COUNT D'AVAUX* His Most CHRISTIAN MAJESTIES Ambassador AT THE HAGUE.

Dated the 9th of *JANUARY* 1684,

And Directed to the KING his MASTER, which was intercepted by the Marquess *DE GRANA* Governour of the *Spanish Netherlands*. As also the Copies of other Three Letters relating to the same Affair.

SIR,

I Had the Honour two days ago to make known to your Majesty that the Lords of *Amsterdam* desired that I would by a Memorial to the States General, make known those good Sentiments which your Majesty hath taken up for the rest and quiet of that republick, in case the *Spaniards* should let pass without effect, the prefixed time of the Month of *Jan.* but that I had refused to present such a Memorial. In the mean time, Sir, the Lords of *Amsterdam* are not able by their Authority to bring the States General to deliberate upon some Affairs; to do which it will be necessary that Pensionary *Fagel* and the Deputies of the States General do consent before they look upon themselves obliged by the presentation of a Memorial. But as it was 205, 33 for to Answer the designs of the Lords of *Amsterdam*, that the States General should enter into a deliberation of what measures they should take: in case an accommodation should not be concluded betwixt your Majesty and *Spain* before the end of this Month.

We have sought after all expedients that might supply the defects of a Memorial, and they laid before me that I should yield; that the Deputies of the States General should ingage in a conference with me: In the which a Friend of *Amsterdam*, one of the *Holland* Deputies should demand of me my Thoughts concerning what should happen, in case the *Spaniards* should not accept some of your Majesties propositions before the end of *Jan.* from whence he might find matter enough for the deliberation of the States General to me. I agreed, and the Lords of *Amsterdam* went immediately to desire two of the Deputies of the States General, that were most inclined to the interest of the *P.* of *O.* that they would accept of a Deputation, and it was to be demanded from me. To give an expres Answer to the Complaints relating to the Ship called the *Reagle*; these were presently ready and glad that they saw the Lords of *Amsterdam*, willing to make Complaints against *France*, but others seeing further then they saw, that the design of the Lords of *Amsterdam* was nothing else but to get a Conference with me. This being their suspicion, was the cause that this expedient took no effect; but the necessity in which the States General found themselves to return me a Compliment, upon my giving them notice of the birth of the *D.* of *Anjou* did give us an opportunity of another expedient, which by the vigilance of the Lords of *Amsterdam* was not less serviceable to us than the former.

For upon ſuch Occaſion, there being no more than three Deputies appointed, it fell out luckily (all places having their turns) to fall upon the Deputies of *Holland*, *Freeſland*, and *Groningham*; to come to me; ſo that the Lords of *Amſterdam* having throughly informed the Lords of *Friſland* and *Groningham*, and deſired the aforeſaid two Lords to diſcourſe with me in the ſame manner, that the Deputies of *Amſterdam* ſhould have diſcourſed with me, in caſe the Deputation of the States General had been compleated, the three aforelaid Deputies came yeſterday to me, and gave me to underſtand how much the States General rejoyced in the happy Birth of the D of *Anjou*. After which the Deputies of *Freeſland* and *Groningham* began a Diſcourſe of thoſe Diſturbances which might ariſe, in caſe the *Spaniards* ſhould paſs by the Month of *Jan.* without effect: The Deputy of *Holland*, that had the Precedency declared that the Diſcourſe that happened between us was of importance enough to be reported to the States General; and in regard he could not do it except I gave it him in Writing, he therefore deſired that I would put it into the form of a Memorial: I anſwered him that he was in the right, if I had any thing to propoſe, or was to requeſt any thing in the behalf of your Majeſty, but that this was only as an Anſwer to what was ſaid to me by thoſe Lords that were in the ſame Deputation, and that it was not a requeſt of your Majeſties, and that it was ſufficient for them that they knew it might be granted them, when the States General ſhould think it matter of Advantage to them; and therefore I left it to them to examine what was moſt for their Conveniency, and that I would give them further Satisfaction, in caſe they deſired a larger Information of your Majeſties Sentiments; after which the ſaid Deputies took their leaves, and about an hour after that, the Deputies of *Amſterdam* came to viſit me, and to inform me of their Endeavours, and that no matters came into debate before the States General but what came by way of Memorial; but that notwithſtanding, when a Miniſter had diſcourſed with the Deputies of the States General, that the Deputies did agree amongſt themſelves whether the matter then Diſcourſed off ought to be a matter of deliberation or not, and that the Deputies of *Frieſland* and *Groningham* had given their words that they did agree, that all the Diſcourſe that happened in the laſt Conference ought to be taken into deliberation. But

Sir, notwithſtanding all theſe precautions, the Lords of *Amſterdam* dare not be confident that the States General will take this Affair into deliberation; for the Authority of the *P. of O.* and the direction of Penſionary *Fagel* is very great; which appears plain enough, for that the Lords of *Amſterdam* could not prevail ſo far with the States General, as to take into deliberation the Memorials of the 5th of *Novemb.* and the 29 of *Decemb.* laſt, which I preſented to them; they alſo declared to me that they could wiſh that I would preſent a Memorial, though it were only to make publick the good Inclinations of your Majeſty to the Republick; alledging that the knowledge of what has been already done, has had ſo conſiderable effects, that it is to be hoped they will have more when it comes to be ſpread abroad. They alſo inſinuated to me that a Memorial might be ſo formed, as that the Propoſals might ſeem no otherwiſe intended but to the advantage of the States General: As for Example,

That I having obſerved from ſeveral Diſcourſes from the Members of this Government, the apprehenſions they have of the Arms of your Majeſty, in caſe the *Spaniards* ſhould not come to an accommodation before the end of *Jan.* of which having the honour to give an account to your Majeſty, and that your Majeſty had given me order to declare to the States General that in caſe they remained as they were, and that they would ſend order to thoſe Troops that were ſent to aſſiſt the *Spaniards*, not to Act otherwiſe then for the defence of the *Spaniſh* Garriſons, that then your Majeſty, for the quieting of the Apprehenſions of the States General, will promiſe and aſſure them to deſiſt from further Attacks, and turn your Arms elſewhere; and that he would be contented only with quartering of Troops and raiſing of Contributions.

As to what concerns the Aſſurance which your Majeſty expects from them, that they will not begin any new Levy; that is an Affair that muſt be diſcourſed by word of Mouth and not by Memorial; for that would look like meddling with their Government: but it will be enough to lay before them, that they continue in the condition in which they are, and ſuch other Matters as may be convenient, and then they will ſooner think of the Caſhiering of Troops, than raiſing more. The Lords of *Amſterdam* have extreamly preſſed me to obtain this permiſſion from your Majeſty, aſſuring me, that they will not be wanting, that it ſhall obtain its end: They have alſo aſſured me there is hardly a day paſſes, but they gain ſome of the Cities of *Holland* to their Sentiments, and that they have juſt now obtained the like from one of the Principal, and that they are uſing all endeavours to bring the

Spaniards

Spaniards to an Accomodation; which if they cannot obtain, that then such methods should be used as was proposed for the Peace and Security of the *Netherlands*, and that they hoped that the Provinces of *Friezland* and *Groningham* will come over to their Sentiments, and therefore desired me to discourse with some of their Deputies, that they may continue stedfast.

Sir, I can assure your Majesty, That the Lords of *Amsterdam* have been wanting in nothing on their part, and that they are not wanting in their endeavours with other Cities: But, Sir, I must not forget to lay before your Majesty, That some of the Members of this *State* have made difficulty to allow your Majesty to come with Militiary Execution upon the open Countrey of the *Spanish Netherlands*, for that being done, it will be impossible for those Provinces to maintain themselves, they being deprived of subsistance; and that it will tend immediately to the taking away of the *Barriere*.

In case the ways through *Flanders* had been secure, I should not have taken the freedom to have sent this Parquet by a Courier; but because I could not have written till Tuesday by the way of *Liege*, I thought it a matter of greater importance then to defer it till that day, from giving your Majesty Account of Affairs in this Countrey; for that it appears to me to be a Matter of so great a Concern, that your Majesty be exactly informed thereof.

In case the Dispositions which I perceive in the Minds of People do not suddenly change, this Affair in a few days will come to a great extremity. Your Majesty well knows that in the beginning the Prince of *Orange* endeavoured to win those of *Amsterdam* to consent to the Levies, but not obtaining his end, he would resolve it in the Assembly of the *States of Holland*; notwithstanding the opposition of the Lords of *Amsterdam*; there was in the beginning but one *City* that declared they could not consent, *that a Matter* of so great importance should be brought to a *Resolution* without a general consent: The *Prince of Orange* flatter'd himself that he could bring *that City* to agree with the rest, and so have concluded *that Matter*. But the Lords of *Amsterdam* being animated by the goodness of your Majesty, declared towards them, and being strengthened by those Methods laid before them, were not *contented* only to refuse their Levies, but inveyed severely against them, and have made so great an Interest in many of the *Cities*, that several of them are come over to their *Sentiments*.

And thus your Majesty may see how this *Matter* continued for some time; the Prince of *Orange* not being able to bear the Affront any longer, after four days entred upon a desperate Resolution, for considering that there were more *Cities* in *Holland* that gave their consent for the Levies, notwithstanding the opposition of *Amsterdam*, then those against it, he took a Resolution, to cause all the *Cities* to give their Voices; and though there might be six or seven that might agree with *Amsterdam* in the same *Sentiment*, yet he intended to conclude the Levies by pluralities of Voices.

But 'tis believed his principal Design was to save his Reputation abroad, by causing the said Levies to be resolved on, against the consent of *Amsterdam*; it being well known in this Countrey, that Pensionary *Fagell* can come to what Conclusion he pleases, though against the Constitution of the Republick, when assisted by the power of the *Prince* of *Orange*; and it is as well known that he can have no great advantage by this Resolution, for that no man will venture to lend money to the Solicitors for the advancing of these Levies. And this is the Sentiment of the *P.* of *O.* which he declared to the *Heer van Harem*; whom he also told, that he would come to this Resolution the next Week: but though this Resolution may be of little profit to the Prince of *Orange*, yet in other respects it may be of great advantage to him, either by reason of those great Divisions that will be made in the *State*, or by pleasing the Marquis *De Grana*, thereby to make *Spain* believe *that the Hollanders* will send great Supplies to them, and that the *Amsterdamers* use endeavours to prevent it.

Sir, As for me, I hope that for the same reason that makes me fear the Lords of *Amsterdam* will not be able to obtain any thing against the will of the *Prince* of *Orange*, that *the States General* will not have cause to complain of your Majesty concerning the Assurance desired of them; that the *Prince* of *Orange* should not be able to gain his end in raising the Levies against the will of *Amsterdam*; and in case he pursues his Resolution, it will soon appear that it will be to little purpose, for *that it* will be easier both for one and the other side to traverse each other in their *Sentiments*, then to cause them to take effect.

I must say this further to your Majesty, That *Monsieur Paes*, and others of the same *Sentiment* have re-assumed Courage, and told their Friends that they had not flattered them in acquainting them with what your Majesty hath done in *Flanders* of *Good* 186, and yet less.

That

That the Lords of *Amſterdam* have had Reſolution enough; and for certain, in caſe the *Prince* of *Orange* ſhall *attempt* any thing by violence, he will meet with more oppoſitions than he imagines.

Sir, This is that which obliges me to repreſent to your Majeſty, That I cannot ſo eaſily and ſpeedily as formerly, have the honour of your Majeſties Orders, relating to Affairs that may accidentally happen; and in caſe your Majeſty ſhall think good to give me any Orders tending to your ſervice, with permiſſion to execute the ſame as occaſion requires, they may be of great uſe for the ſupporting of thoſe of *Amſterdam* to enter upon ſuch Expedients as they ſhall propoſe me, that ſo your Majeſty might not be at a loſs to preſent a Memorial in caſe of neceſſity; but if not, yet to deſire a Conference with the *States General*, who will immediately ſend their Deputies to diſcourſe with me in this Affair: and in purſuance of this Conference, I would deliver over in writing what has been diſcourſed betwixt us, which would be a means to palliate the matter; for the Lords of *Amſterdam* are not a little alarmed at the pretended coming over of a 136, and do ſay that it is nothing elſe but to amuſe them, that I am ſo earneſt to make theſe propoſitions to them; and there is nothing will more advantage the intereſt of your Majeſty, then to ſhew them that it is out of reſpect to them that you have bin ſo frank in your proceedings, and that is it which muſt perſwade them when we enter upon thoſe expedients, which will not too much ingage your Majeſty. I moſt humbly beſeech your Majeſty that you will be pleas'd to let me know if there be any Affairs wherein I might launch out my ſelf to the uttermoſt, without being any obſtruction to what your Majeſty demands, relating to the ruin of the open Countrey of the *Spaniards*, in which I find ſo many difficulties, if the matter ſhould come ſo far, which I yet queſtion: I do not give my ſelf the honour to aſk of your Majeſty what I muſt do as to the aſſurance that may be deſired of the Lords of *Amſterdam*, in caſe they cannot bring the States General to grant unto your Majeſty what has been laid before me; (as yet I know not what the intent of your Majeſty is) I can only ſay that the Lords of *Amſterdam* have not as yet explained that matter, and have told me expreſly that theſe are remedies they muſt only have recourſe unto, in caſe of the uttermoſt extremity; neither will they ſay any thing to me of that Affair, before they have loſt all hopes of obtaining from the States General thoſe aſſurances of giving your Majeſty ſatisfaction; which they do yet flatter themſelves they ſhall obtain.

A Copy of a Letter from Monſieur de Saint Diſdier *to* Monſieur de Meſmes.

THere hath bin here no Alterations ſince I have had the honour of Writing to you by *Caſtell*, I had alſo two days ago the ſame honour of Writing to you by the way of *Liege*. The Lords of *Amſterdam* do their endeavours, and Monſieur *D'Avaux* ſo manages his Affairs as to obtain his ends; and in caſe Affairs cannot be brought to ſucceed according to our wiſhes, it muſt be imputed to the great oppoſition we meet with. In the mean time we can promiſe our ſelves that theſe Affairs will not come much ſhort of our deſires; as for me I make it too much my intereſt as well in Relation of my Station, as to the honour of Mounſieur *D'Avaux*, as to wiſh that all things may come to a happy Iſſue.

Sir, your moſt humble and obedient Servant, Saint Diſdier.

The Copy of a Letter to Monſieur de Meſmes *9th* Jan. 1684.

AFfairs here are brought to a great extremity, and I do foreſee they will grow more difficult. It is not likely that any thing can be obtained in the midſt of theſe diſorders againſt the will of the Prince of *Orange*; but the Lords of *Amſterdam* will never conſent to the Levies: It is believed he will do it in Oppoſition to them, which we muſt expect.

A Copy of a Letter from Father Limoion *to the Reverend Father* Grenier *at* Marſeilles, *Dated at the* HAGUE, *Second of* January, 1684.

Moſt Reverend Father and Maſter,

THe Affairs of State in theſe parts is to prevent the United Provinces from proceeding in the Levies, that ſo the King may the next *Compaigne* make himſelf Maſter of the *Spaniſh Netherlands*, we flatter them here with illuſory Promiſes: for in all probability within four Months we ſhall have a Bloody War. *Yours.*

F I N I S.

Printed at the *Hague* by *Jacobus Scheltus* Printer to the *States*, and Reprinted at *London* for *Randall Taylor* 1684.